

HISTORY'S FUTURE

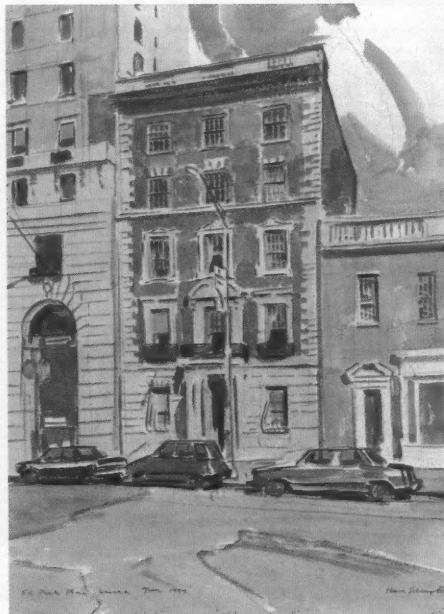
THE NEW JERSEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The New Jersey Historical Society is a state-wide, private, non-profit historical library and museum dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of New Jersey. Founded in 1845 and located in Newark, its holdings represent the largest single collection of New Jersey material in the country. The Society is the state's oldest cultural institution.

Like many other antebellum historical institutions, the Society was founded as a library and publishing organization. Since that time, different generations have reinterpreted the role of the Society within the context of their own lives and times. A century and a half later, the mission of the Society has been revitalized to include an innovative exhibition schedule and challenging programs for a broad audience of school children, families, adults, and scholars throughout the state. This ambitious revitalization program has had an impact on every aspect of the Society.



The New Jersey Historical Society now offers visitors a multi-faceted program which responds to the diverse communities within New Jersey, bridging the past and the present. In its role as a major cultural resource, the Society strives to help all New Jerseyans understand and value their unique history.

Public reaction to the revitalized Society has been enthusiastic. The number of visitors has grown dramatically and the composition of the audience has broadened to represent many new constituencies.

It is impossible to continue this growth without a new facility, because the future simply cannot be realized at the Society's current location. The Society is committed to Newark and the diversity it represents. Fortunately the Society benefited from a generous and timely gift. In 1993, the Essex Club of Newark donated its building to the Society. In so doing, the members insured that their outstanding landmark would be preserved and, at the same time, that the oldest cultural institution in New Jersey would have an historic new home.

HISTORY'S FUTURE: THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Society has developed a carefully-prepared capital campaign to raise the funds needed to restore the Essex Club building and to complete the revitalization. *History's Future*, the capital campaign, seeks funds to support four components:

- A New Home for the Society
- The Initiative for New Audiences
- Collections Care and Cataloguing
- An Endowment for the Library

History's Future is built around the leadership of the Society's Board of Governors, Board of Trustees, and the large list of members and supporters. Noted television journalist Bill Moyers serves as Honorary Chairman.

The campaign has received grants from individuals, corporations, and foundations. The Kresge Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the New Jersey Historic Trust have all made major awards to the campaign.



A NEW HOME FOR THE SOCIETY: THE ESSEX CLUB BUILDING

The Society's restoration of the Essex Club is a cost-effective opportunity to preserve the building and simultaneously provide new headquarters for the Society. Although only slightly larger, the

new facility will devote to

public programs significantly greater space than the current headquarters.

The building is located in the middle of Newark's reviving cultural district, along the eastern edge of Military Park. On the same block, construction is underway on the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The site is within walking distance of most of Newark's cultural institutions, Newark's Pennsylvania Station, and ample public parking.

THE INITIATIVE FOR NEW AUDIENCES

The central purpose of the revitalization is to engage the Society's popular audience more fully through expanded services. The Initiative for New Audiences has created a lively schedule of exhibitions and interactive programs.

Our exciting exhibition schedule explores many different social and cultural moments in New

Jersey history, from Victorian cemeteries to Caribbean-American folk artists. *Teenage New Jersey: From Frank Sinatra to Bruce Springsteen* will use two New Jersey natives and cultural icons to bracket the changing experience of adolescence from the 1940s through the 1970s.

Teenage New Jersey will be the first exhibition in the new building. Educational programs reinforce gallery-based learning with provocative activities. These programs encourage visitors to challenge assumptions and consider a variety of viewpoints. The Society offers dozens of hands-on, minds-on educational programs, ranging from scholarly symposiums to afterschool "drop-in" workshops.

COLLECTIONS CARE AND CATALOGUING

The Society's museum and library collections represent the single most significant holdings of New Jersey material in the country. More active use of the collections in exhibitions and educational programs is another focus of the revitalization, as the Society seeks to improve awareness of this resource.

The library collection documents New Jersey history from the late seventeenth century to the present. Included are rare books, imprints, news-

papers, pamphlets and broadsides, maps, and a remarkable range of newsletters, city directories, and church and cemetery records. The manuscript collection features over 1,000,000 pieces. It is an unparalleled resource for scholars and historians.

The museum collection is one of the nation's finest regional history collections. It ranges across a wide spectrum of art and artifact, encompassing photographs, fine and decorative arts, architectural drawings, costumes, textiles, and tools. There are more than 150,000 items that document New Jersey's changing landscapes, industries, and tastes.

Following a careful study, the Society has developed a Collections Care and Cataloguing program which will prepare the collections for the relocation to the new headquarters. The project is generating new information and organizing data into a cohesive, computerized database which will be a major resource for the interpretation of New Jersey history.

The Essex Club facility will allow the Society to make major improvements in the care of the collections, which will be housed in modern storage rooms with state-of-the-art climate control for the first time.



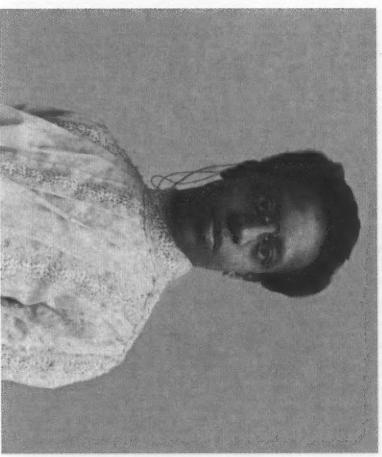
Boardwalk, Atlantic City, N.J.

THE LIBRARY ENDOWMENT

The New Jersey Historical Society is unusual among institutions of its age and importance in its lack of an adequate endowment. Each year every dollar of the operating budget must be raised from contributions, grants, and other sources of revenue. This is particularly difficult for the Society's Library, which needs funds for conservation, publications, and acquisitions. Endowment funds for the Library will assure future excellence and long-term financial stability.

FOR HISTORY'S FUTURE

The Society will move into the Essex Club building in June 1997. This exciting event reflects the commitment and dedication of many individuals, corporations, and foundations who have contributed to the campaign. Their generosity is eloquent testimony to the importance of the New



A SENSE OF PLACE, A FRAME OF REFERENCE FOR TODAY'S WORLD

We study history so that we may understand ourselves and our world. The discipline offers us a frame of reference which enhances our ability to make judgments about contemporary issues. At the New Jersey Historical Society...

We're trying to give people a sense of place. We're trying to anchor them both in terms of their everyday

lives and also I think ... historically, culturally, emotionally. History gives us a sense of who went before us, what life was like then, and our lives are enriched. We have a sense of where we came from now and for generations to come.

and how we belong.

HON. MAUREEN OGDEN,
VICE CHAIR, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

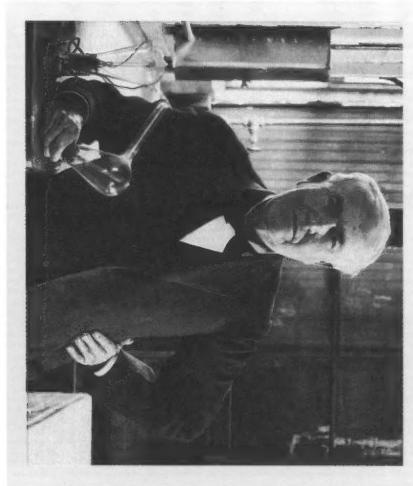
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